

General Conditions for the Supply of Products and Services of Highvolt Prüftechnik Dresden GmbH



I. General Conditions

1. The written order confirmation of HIGHVOLT Prüftechnik Dresden GmbH (hereinafter referred to as "HIGHVOLT"), including any written amendments, governs the delivery and performance of HIGHVOLT products and services (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Supplies").
2. HIGHVOLT's deliveries are made and services are performed exclusively on the basis of these General Conditions for the Supply of Products and Services – Division Power Quality (Erfurt and Berlin) (hereinafter referred to as the "General Conditions"), which apply only if the Purchaser is an entrepreneur (§ 14 BGB, i.e. German Civil Code), a public authority or a special fund pursuant to public law. These General Conditions are also applicable to future sale of Supplies even if not explicitly agreed, unless HIGHVOLT bases the sale on other general conditions of sale expressly approved by HIGHVOLT in writing. Without HIGHVOLT's written agreement, Purchaser's terms and conditions and/or supplementaries to these General Conditions are not binding on HIGHVOLT even if they have been included in Purchaser's order and have not been explicitly contradicted by HIGHVOLT, whether or not they are material. HIGHVOLT's performance does not constitute acceptance of Purchaser's terms and conditions. Reference to the applicability of legal regulations is intended only for clarification. Even without such clarification, the legal regulations apply to the extent they are not explicitly changed or excluded in these General Conditions.
3. Any documents relating to a quotation such as illustrations or drawings and information on the object of delivery and/or services (e.g. weight details, dimensions, specifications, load capacities, tolerances and technical Data) (collectively, the "Documents") shall not be binding unless specifically so agreed. HIGHVOLT reserves all rights, right, title and interest (including copyright) to cost estimates and the Documents. The Documents shall not be made available to third parties without the prior written consent of HIGHVOLT and they shall, upon request, be immediately returned to HIGHVOLT if HIGHVOLT is not awarded the contract. Sentences 2 and 3 shall apply reciprocally to Purchaser's documents, but these may be made available to those third parties to whom HIGHVOLT may transfer Supplies and/or Services.
4. Partial delivery of Supplies shall be permissible to the extent commercially reasonable.

II. Prices and terms of payment

1. Prices shall be solely applicable to the scope of Supplies as stipulated in HIGHVOLT's respective offers and order confirmations. Additional or special services will be charged separately. Prices are based on delivery ex works excluding packing plus any sales tax payable under applicable law, unless otherwise expressly agreed.
2. Payments shall be due 30 days after date of invoice and delivery, in cash and free of all deductions, made to the address for payment specified by HIGHVOLT, unless other payment conditions have been expressly agreed.
3. If payment is not made when due, HIGHVOLT shall be entitled to interest on amounts in arrears at 9 percentage points p. a. over the base lending rate as published by the German Federal Reserve Bank but not more than the highest rate permitted by law. HIGHVOLT reserves the right to claim further damages in the case of late payment.
4. Purchaser may set off only claims that are undisputed or have been determined in a legally binding manner. In the case of any defects, counterclaims of the Purchaser, including but not limited to claims arising from Article XI No. 5 of these General Conditions, shall remain unaffected.

III. Retention of title

1. HIGHVOLT shall retain title to the Supplies (hereinafter "Secured Goods") which shall remain the property of HIGHVOLT until all contract claims against Purchaser have been satisfied. The retention of title shall also extend to products resulting out of processing, dilution or bonding of Secured Goods to their full value; HIGHVOLT shall be deemed as manufacturer of such products. If and to the extent that a third party retains title in goods which were processed, diluted or bonded with Secured Goods, HIGHVOLT shall acquire co-ownership proportional to the invoice value of the processed, diluted or bonded Secured Goods. If the realizable value of HIGHVOLT's collective security rights exceeds the amount of all secured claims by more than 10 %, HIGHVOLT shall, on Purchaser's request, release a corresponding part of the retained rights.
2. For the duration of the retention of title Purchaser may not give any of the Supplies in pledge or as security, and release of Supplies shall be permissible only to resellers in the ordinary course of business and only on condition that the reseller receives payment from its customer or retains title so that the property is transferred to the customer only after fulfillment of the customer's obligation to pay.
3. Purchaser shall immediately inform HIGHVOLT in writing of any seizure, confiscation or other acts or interventions by third parties.
4. If Purchaser materially breaches a contractual obligation, including but not limited to a delay in payment, HIGHVOLT shall be entitled to terminate the contract and/or take back the Supplies. Purchaser shall be obliged to return the purchased Supplies. If HIGHVOLT retakes the Secured Goods or asserts other rights pursuant to the retention of title, the contract shall nevertheless not terminate unless expressly stated by HIGHVOLT.
5. HIGHVOLT shall be entitled to equip the Supplies with electronic clearing codes. The operability of the Supplies will be ensured for the purposes of commissioning and final acceptance. Purchaser shall be provided with an unrestricted electronic clearing code upon receipt of the complete payment of the purchase price. This shall not apply in the event of undisputed and legally ascertained counterclaims.

IV. Time for delivery; delay

1. Delivery periods are approximate target times and not binding unless explicitly otherwise agreed upon. Observance of the stipulated time for delivery is conditioned upon the timely receipt of all documents, necessary permits and releases, including plans to be provided by Purchaser, as well as fulfillment of the agreed terms of payment and other obligations by Purchaser. If these conditions are not fulfilled on time, the time for delivery will be extended accordingly except if HIGHVOLT is responsible for the delay. HIGHVOLT will inform Purchaser accordingly without delay.
2. If HIGHVOLT's non-observance of the time for delivery is due to an event of Force Majeure (as defined below), such time shall be extended accordingly. HIGHVOLT will inform the Purchaser accordingly without delay. "Force Majeure" means an event beyond the control of HIGHVOLT which prevents HIGHVOLT from complying with any of its obligations, including but not limited to: (a) Act of God (such as, but not limited to, fires, explosions, earthquakes, drought, tidal waves and floods); (b) war, hostilities (whether war be declared or not), invasion, act of foreign enemies, mobilization, requisition, or embargo; (c) rebellion, revolution, insurrection, or military or usurped power, or civil war; (d) contamination by radio-activity from any nuclear fuel, or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel, radio-active toxic explosive, or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear component of such assembly; (e) riot, commotion, strikes, go slows, lock outs or disorder, unless solely restricted to employees of the Supplier or of his Subcontractors; or (f) acts or threats of terrorism. HIGHVOLT will inform Purchaser about the beginning and the end of such Force Majeure events as soon as possible. In the event that the Force Majeure continues for a consecutive period of more than six months, either HIGHVOLT or Purchaser shall be entitled to terminate the contract.
3. If HIGHVOLT is responsible for a delay in delivery, Purchaser - provided it can credibly establish that it suffered a loss from such delay - may claim compensation of 0.5 % of the purchase price for every full week of delay but in no event more than a total of 5 % of the net price of the delayed Supplies.
4. Except as otherwise required by applicable law (such as in cases of willful intent, gross negligence, fraud or injury to life, body or health), Purchaser's claims for damages as a result of delayed delivery and claims for damages instead of performance which exceed the limits specified in No. 3 shall be excluded in all cases of delayed delivery, including after expiry of an extension of time for delivery that HIGHVOLT may have granted. Purchaser may terminate the contract only as provided by law and only if the delay in delivery was HIGHVOLT's responsibility.
5. Upon request by HIGHVOLT, Purchaser shall state within a reasonable length of time if it is terminating the contract as a result of the delay in delivery and/or demanding a claim for damage in lieu of performance or insisting on delivery.
6. If, at Purchaser's request or for reasons for which it is responsible, dispatch or delivery is delayed by more than one month after notice is given that goods are ready for dispatch, HIGHVOLT may charge Purchaser storage costs for each month thereafter in the amount of 0.5 % of the gross price of the Supplies, but in no event shall the aggregate storage charges exceed a total of 5 % of the gross price. The parties may nevertheless furnish proof of higher or lower storage costs. Legal claims of HIGHVOLT (including but not limited to indemnification for any additional costs and expenses incurred, termination) shall not be affected. Any such storage costs shall, however, be credited towards any further pecuniary claims.

V. Transfer of risk; acceptance of works

1. All risk shall pass to Purchaser when the Supplies (or partial shipment of the Supplies) leave the factory of have been picked-up irrespective if HIGHVOLT is obliged to perform subsequent services such as commissioning services. At the written request and expense of Purchaser, shipments will be insured by HIGHVOLT against usual transport risks.
2. If the dispatch or the delivery is delayed for reasons for which Purchaser is responsible, or if Purchaser has failed for other reasons to accept delivery, the risk shall pass to Purchaser as soon as HIGHVOLT has given notice that the goods are ready to be dispatched.
3. With respect to Supplies which are services, all risk shall pass to Purchaser upon completion of those services.
4. If and to the extent the parties agreed on formal acceptance of works, such acceptance of works shall take place at the agreed date, alternatively subsequent to HIGHVOLT's notice of readiness for acceptance to Purchaser. The acceptance of works shall be in writing by means of acceptance protocol to be signed

by Purchaser and HIGHVOLT. Acceptance of works shall be deemed to be granted by Purchaser, if Purchaser fails to participate in the acceptance of works without good cause. Purchaser shall not be entitled to reject acceptance of works in the event of immaterial defects, if HIGHVOLT explicitly acknowledges its duty to rectify such defects. The respective deadlines shall be reasonably extended if the acceptance of works is delayed without HIGHVOLT being responsible for such delay.

5. Circuit diagrams, calculations and other technical documents of HIGHVOLT (hereinafter "Technical Documents") shall be approved by Purchaser in writing. HIGHVOLT shall not be obliged to perform services outlined in the Technical Documents without Purchaser's prior written approval. The respective deadlines including but not limited to delivery times shall be reasonably extended if HIGHVOLT is not responsible for such delays.

VI. Subcontractors

HIGHVOLT shall be entitled to appoint subcontractors with the delivery and/or performance of Supplies without Purchaser's prior consent.

VII. Purchaser's obligations

1. Purchaser shall be responsible for all and any products, information, preparatory works, documents and material including but not limited to the definition of interfaces of HIGHVOLT's Supplies with other components provided by Purchaser to HIGHVOLT. Purchaser shall be solely responsible and liable for the accuracy, completeness, suitability and condition in this respect.
2. Purchaser shall carry out its contributions in due time and shall in particular provide HIGHVOLT with information required for the provision of Supplies in due time.
3. Purchaser shall provide remote access upon HIGHVOLT's request.

VIII. Change request

HIGHVOLT shall neither be obliged to perform any change requests, i.e. any modifications or amendments to the scope of Supplies, nor to render any additional services initially not agreed upon both parties, as long as the parties have not agreed on additional compensation. For this purpose, HIGHVOLT will inform Purchaser about any additional costs and impacts on dates and deadlines.

IX. Packaging

HIGHVOLT shall not be obliged to take back packaging for transport and other packaging material. Purchaser shall be responsible to ensure orderly disposal of packaging material at its expense.

X. Taking delivery

Deliveries shall be accepted by the Purchaser, regardless of minor defects.

XI. Limited Warranty for defect of quality

HIGHVOLT hereby warrants the Supplies to be free from defects in workmanship and materials and to conform to any specially agreed specifications for a limitation period (as defined below). In the case of breach of warranty, HIGHVOLT shall be liable as follows:

1. HIGHVOLT shall, at its option and expense, repair, replace or provide parts or services for those that prove to be defective within the limitation period (as defined below) - irrespective of operating time - provided that the cause of the defect occurred prior to the time at which the risk passed to the Purchaser.
2. For services, HIGHVOLT's liability for defect of quality shall be limited to exchanged parts and work performed.
3. Unless otherwise provided by law, claims for defects of quality expire after the limitation period, i.e. for sales of products within twelve months from the date of delivery or twelve months from the acceptance of works (as the case may be), but not later than eighteen months from the date of delivery and/or completion of services in the event that HIGHVOLT's contractual obligations also include the provision of services in addition to the sales of products. The special provisions of law regarding time limits (in particular §§ 438(1) no. 1 and no.2, §§ 444 and 445b of the German Civil Code) shall remain in effect.
4. A condition to the Purchaser's claim for defects is that the Purchaser has fulfilled its legal obligations to inspect for and give notice of such defects. Any inspection of parts or components that are integrated into other products must be carried out prior to installation. If defects are apparent either in the inspection or thereafter, the Purchaser is to give HIGHVOLT prompt written notice. Notice will be deemed to have been given promptly if given within two weeks, whereby for purposes of meeting this deadline, sending the notice within that period is sufficient. In addition to this duty of inspection and notice, the Purchaser shall give written notice of any readily apparent defect (including delivery of the wrong product or quantity) within two weeks of delivery, whereby also in this case sending the notice within the period is sufficient. The Purchaser shall immediately notify HIGHVOLT in writing of any breach of warranty.
5. Purchaser may withhold payment based on claims of breach of warranty only in an amount that is commensurate with the actual defect(s). Purchaser may withhold payment only if a claim of breach of warranty is made and HIGHVOLT does not dispute it.
6. Purchaser shall give HIGHVOLT a reasonable period to rectify a defect. Purchaser shall return defective items to HIGHVOLT in the event of supply of new items by reason of applicable law. The rectification of defects shall neither include the removal of defective products nor the installation of new products if HIGHVOLT was originally not responsible for the installation.
7. HIGHVOLT shall bear, or reimburse the Purchaser for costs incurred in connection with corrective work, including for materials, labor, shipment and travel, not including costs for removal and installation. If costs are increased because the products or devices on which services were performed have been transferred to some place other than the agreed upon place of performance, Purchaser shall bear such additional costs. Purchaser shall also pay the costs of sending the defective item to HIGHVOLT. HIGHVOLT reserves the right to require indemnification for costs incurred in connection with an unwarranted request for rectification of a defect unless the absence of a defect could not have been ascertained by the Purchaser.
8. If HIGHVOLT's attempted remedy of any warranty breach fails, Purchaser - irrespective of any claims for damage with respect to Article XV - may terminate the contract or decrease the remuneration by a commercially reasonable amount. This shall also apply if HIGHVOLT fails to meet a reasonable deadline without rectifying the defect. Purchaser, however, shall not be entitled to withdraw from the contract in the event of immaterial defects, immaterial deviations from the quality or condition agreed upon or immaterial impairment of usability.
9. Claims for defects of spare parts and for rectification of defects expire after the limitation period of twelve months. The limitation period for subsequent delivery shall expire at the earliest at the expiry date of the initial limitation period for Supplies. Claims for breach of warranty shall not include wear and tear or damage arising - after the transfer of risk - from faulty or negligent handling, excessive strain, unsuitable equipment, defective workmanship, inappropriate foundation soil, chemical, electrochemical, electrical or other external influences not assumed under the contract, or from non-reproducible software errors. Claims for defects of quality do not cover modifications or repairs (and the consequences that result) carried out improperly by Purchaser or by third parties.
10. Purchaser's claims for legal recourse against HIGHVOLT are valid only to the extent that the Purchaser has not made any agreement with its customer beyond those imposed by law. Moreover, the provisions of No. 8 apply to and restrict Purchaser's claims under this No. 8.
11. Article XV also applies to damage claims ("Other damage claims"). Furthermore, HIGHVOLT hereby excludes Purchaser's claims against HIGHVOLT and its agents concerning warranties for quality defects except as permitted by this Article XI.

XII. Industrial property rights and copyrights; defects of title

1. Unless otherwise agreed, HIGHVOLT shall furnish the Supplies free of third party industrial property rights and copyrights (hereinafter referred to as "Property Rights") only in the country of delivery. If a third party, because of an alleged infringement of Property Rights, asserts legitimate claims against Purchaser for products furnished by HIGHVOLT and used in conformity with the contract, HIGHVOLT shall be liable to the Purchaser within the limitation period pursuant to Article XI No. 3 as follows:
 - a) At its own option and expense, HIGHVOLT shall either obtain a right to use the relevant products, modify them so as not to infringe upon the Property Rights, or replace them. If this is not possible on terms acceptable to HIGHVOLT, Purchaser may terminate the agreement or reduce the purchase price by a commercially reasonable amount.
 - b) Any obligation of HIGHVOLT to honor a claim for damage is limited by Article XV below.
 - c) The obligations of HIGHVOLT described above are applicable only if Purchaser immediately notifies HIGHVOLT in writing as to the claims lodged by a third party, an infringement is not acknowledged, and all counter-measures and settlement negotiations are reserved by HIGHVOLT. If Purchaser ceases to use any of the Supplies in order to reduce damage or for other material reasons, it shall advise the third party that the cessation of use is not an acknowledgement of an infringement of Property Rights.
2. Claims of Purchaser against HIGHVOLT shall be excluded if the Purchaser is responsible for the infringement of Property Rights.
3. Claims of Purchaser shall also be excluded if the infringement of Property Rights was caused by specific demands of the Purchaser, by a use of the Supplies not foreseeable by HIGHVOLT or by the Supplies being altered by Purchaser or being used together with products not provided by HIGHVOLT.
4. In the case of Property Right infringements, the provisions as defined in Article XI, Nos. 6, 7 and 11 apply to those claims by Purchaser cited in No. 1a).
5. For other defects of title, the provisions as defined in Article XI apply.
6. Further claims or any claims made by Purchaser against HIGHVOLT and its agents other than those dealt with in this, Article XII, concerning a defect of title are excluded.

XIII. Assignment

Purchaser shall not be entitled to assign any rights, claims or entitlements to any third party whatsoever without the prior written consent of HIGHVOLT.

XIV. Impossibility of performance, contract adaptation

1. If a delivery is not possible, Purchaser may claim damages, unless HIGHVOLT is not responsible for the impossibility. The Purchaser's claim for damages shall be limited to 10 % of the value of that part of the Supplies which, owing to the impossibility, cannot be put to the intended use. This limitation shall not apply (a) in cases of intent or gross negligence or (b) if there is a legally binding liability on the part of HIGHVOLT due to injury to life, body or health. Purchaser's right to terminate the contract remains unaffected.
2. To the extent unforeseeable events such as are described in Article IV, No. 2, materially change the economic importance of the Supplies or materially affect HIGHVOLT's business, the contract shall be adapted accordingly with due regard to the principle of good faith. If this is not economically reasonable, HIGHVOLT may terminate the contract. HIGHVOLT shall not be entitled to withdraw from the contract in an event which is attributable to HIGHVOLT. If HIGHVOLT wishes to make use of this right of termination, it shall notify Purchaser in writing immediately after becoming aware of the significance of the event. This right of HIGHVOLT to terminate shall apply regardless of whether HIGHVOLT and Purchaser have agreed to an extension of the delivery time. HIGHVOLT shall without delay refund any consideration already received from Purchaser.

XV. Other claims for damages

1. As to Purchaser's claims for damages and expenses (hereinafter referred to as "Claims for Damages"), including those concerning violation of contractual obligations and tort, regardless of their legal basis, HIGHVOLT is liable to Purchaser only in case of intent, fraud or gross negligence. The limitation of liability set forth in the first sentence of this Article XV No. 1 applies also in cases of breach of duty by or to the benefit of its agents, legal representatives, employees and other entities providing fulfillment or installation services for whose fault HIGHVOLT is responsible by reason of applicable law. This limitation of liability does not apply to Purchaser's claims based on breach of a material contractual obligation (which means a duty, whose due fulfillment is necessary for the proper carrying out of the contract and on whose observance the contract partner regularly relies on and may rely on) or guarantees provided by HIGHVOLT. In cases of Article XV, No. 1, Sentence 2, however, HIGHVOLT's liability is limited to damages which are typical for this kind of contract and foreseeable by HIGHVOLT at the time of entering into the contract except to the extent HIGHVOLT is liable by reason of intention, fraud or gross negligence. In particular, without limitation, indirect and consequential damages which are the consequence of defects in the product delivered are subject to recovery only to the extent such damages are the consequences of defects which are normally expected in case of use of the delivered product in accordance with HIGHVOLT's directions.
2. The limitations of liability set forth in Article XV, No. 1 above shall not apply to Purchaser's claims for loss of life, bodily injury or damage to health or if excluded by product liability laws.
3. If the Purchaser is entitled to claims for damage under this Article XV, the duration of liability of these claims corresponds to the time as set forth in the applicable limitation period regarding claims for defects of quality pursuant to Article XI, No. 3. The statute of limitations applies to claims for damages based on loss of life, personal injury or injury to health or based on applicable product liability laws. The statute of limitations also applies to guarantees provided by HIGHVOLT and claims for damages in case of gross negligence, fraud or intent.

XVI. Export regulations

1. Purchaser shall be responsible for complying with export regulations, in particular payment of customs duties, as well as with other applicable tariffs and taxes (as the case may be). The contract for the delivery of Supplies shall be concluded under the condition precedent that all mandatory official approvals will be granted if and to the extent that sale, resale, disposition of Supplies as well as technologies or other technical assistance are subject to export regulations. Moreover, the contract for the delivery of Supplies shall be concluded under the condition subsequent in the event that initially granted official approvals will be revoked prior to the export of Supplies. Purchaser shall not be entitled to claim damages – irrespective of their legal basis – if official approvals will not be granted or will only be granted with delay or will be revoked are if HIGHVOLT was not responsible for such refusal. Purchaser shall be obliged to compensate HIGHVOLT as agreed for any performance provided by HIGHVOLT including any advance performance of HIGHVOLT (if applicable).
2. Purchaser shall inform HIGHVOLT about every intended selling-on of Supplies to (end-) customers affected by export restrictions.
3. If official export approvals are required, Purchaser shall support HIGHVOLT appropriately; Purchaser shall in particular obtain or issue end user certificates and provide other required documents or declarations.

XVII. Governing law

The laws of the Federal Republic of Germany to the exclusion of its conflict of law provisions of German International Private Law and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) shall be applicable.

XVIII. Settlement of Disputes concerning national Supplies

The following arbitration clause shall apply to contracts by and between HIGHVOLT and Purchaser whose business address is in the Federal Republic of Germany:

All disputes arising in connection with this contract or its validity shall be finally settled in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit e.V. (DIS) (German Institution for Arbitration) without recourse to the ordinary courts of law. The place of arbitration is Munich. The number of arbitrators is three. The arbitral proceedings shall be conducted in English. The laws of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be exclusively applicable to this arbitral proceeding, except for its rules regarding the conflict of laws and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), both of which are hereby excluded.

XIX. Settlement of Disputes concerning international Supplies

The following arbitration clause shall apply to contracts by and between HIGHVOLT and Purchaser whose business address is outside the Federal Republic of Germany:

All disputes arising out of or in connection with this contract including questions regarding the legal validity of this contract and this arbitration clause be finally settled out of court and shall be referred to arbitration under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) by three arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules. The place of arbitration shall be Zurich, Switzerland. The language of the arbitral proceedings shall be English. The laws of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be exclusively applicable to this arbitral proceeding, except for its rules regarding the conflict of laws and the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), both of which are hereby excluded.

XX. Requirement of the written form

The contract may not be amended unless in writing. This also applies to the requirement of the written form.

XXI. Validity of the contract

In case of the legal invalidity of individual terms, the remaining parts of the contract shall remain binding. The parties shall undertake to replace the invalid provision by a new one which as far as possible shall meet the economic purpose intended by the invalid provision save where adherence to the contract would mean an undue hardship on one of the parties.